ON THE GRAND

On the Grand is a quarterly publication distrubuted by the Grand River Conservation Authority to member municipalities and other interested persons and groups. It contains capsule news items concerning Conservation Authority programs and projects throughout the valley. Comments and suggestions will be welcome.

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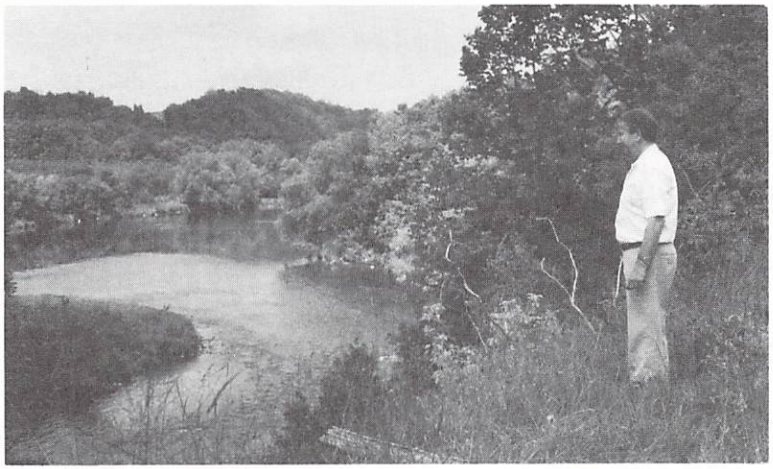
Rails to Trails



Vice Chairman Ron Eddy looks out over the Grand River from the abandoned Cambridge to Paris railway line the Conservation Authority is purchasing.

Hundreds of miles of rural railway lines are being abandoned in southern Ontario. The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) is taking hold of a once in a lifetime opportunity to conserve these corridors of open space for public use.

CP Rail and the GRCA have reached an agreement allowing for the purchase of 18 kilometres of abandoned railway line between Cambridge and Paris. Possible future uses of this scenic rail line include hiking and/or bicycle trails.

In addition to passing through or bordering existing conservation lands, the line follows the Grand River through floodplains, wetlands and unique Carolinian Canada forest.

An informational meeting and open house was held by the GRCA for adjacent landowners on November 19 in Glen Morris to identify and discuss mutual concerns and long term management.

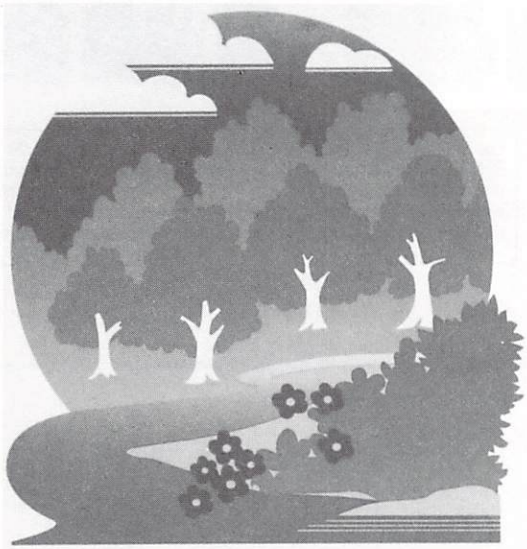
Funds for the acquisition of these rail lands will be raised by the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation, who have committed the profits from their 1992 Fund-raising Dinner to help finance this "Rails to Trails" project. The date for the Dinner is Thursday, January 30. Tickets are $150.00 per person and are available from Foundation Members or the Communications Section.

Canada Trust
"Friends of the Environment"

The Conservation Authority is pleased to have been awarded a $10,000 grant, from the Canada Trust "Friends of the Environment" Foundation, which will aid the efforts of our Fairlake Centre mobile education programs in 1992.

Canada Trust established its "Friends of the Environment" Foundation, where customers can "Green" their savings accounts. A percentage of the interest is directed to the "Friends" Foundation, matched by a contribution by Canada Trust. Proceeds are then used to forward local community environmental projects. Funds are administered at the local branch level, by a committee of volunteer citizens who evaluate the merits of each grant application.

The GRCA wishes to thank Canada Trust, and its "Friends of the Environment" Foundation, for helping to increase conservation education to watershed residents through this generous donation.



Canada Trust customers and Canada Trust are working together to make a difference in our community through the Friends of the Environment.
You're invited to join in!

New Nature Centre

With an increased demand for conservation and environmental education programs, officials of the GRCA and the Brant County Board of Education opened the Brant Nature Centre on September 16.

The new nature centre, located in the Brant Conservation Area, is an extension of the school board programs offered just a couple of kilometres away at the Apps' Mill Nature Centre. Students using the new facility will be mainly from grades seven to 10.

With the addition of the Brant Nature Centre, the GRCA now operates a total of six centres in the watershed, providing curriculm based outdoor education programs for school boards.

The Brant Nature Centre was officially opened September 16 by representatives from the GRCA and the Brant County School Board.

The Apps' Mill Nature Centre celebrated its 10th year of operations October 20. Cutting the cake are Glenn Savory, Chairman of the Brant County Board of Education; John Harris, President of the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation; and Jim Wallace, Vice President - Consumer Product Sales, S.C. Johnson and Son of Brantford. S.C. Johnson donated the funds which enabled building the Nature Centre .

Corporate Environmental Leadership

S.C. Johnson Wax Limited of Brantford was one of three finalists for the Ministry of Environment "Environmental Achievement Award" in the Corporate Environmental Leadership category. This category "recognizes innovative and/or exemplary environmental conduct by a Canadian corporation, institution or association - industrial or other."

Among its qualifications for the award, S.C. Johnson is the first manufacturer to eliminate CFCs from its consumer aerosol products in Canada and coordinates a tree planting program with the GRCA under which a million trees will be planted by 1999. The company also works with World Wildlife Fund Canada in support of its endangered species and endangered spaces programs.

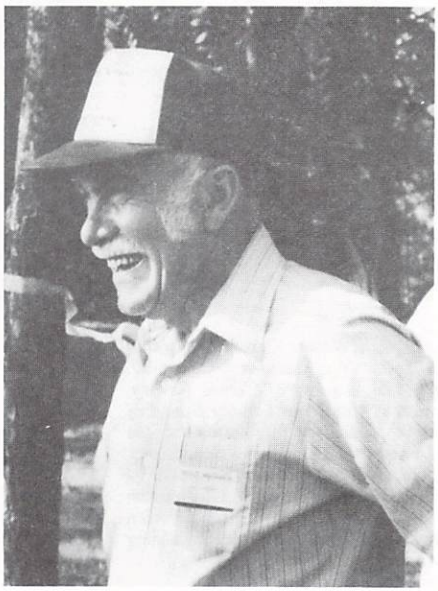
The award was presented in June to INCO Limited of Toronto, who began the largest environmental clean-up in Canadian corporate history, committing $494 million over five years to reduce sulphur dioxide emission levels.

Andrew Stanners

Conservation Authority staff were saddened to learn of the death of Andrew Stanners in November. Andy started with the Grand River Conservation Commission in 1957 at the construction site of the Conestogo Dam and Reservoir.

He later transferred to the GRCA when amalgamation occurred in 1966. Until his retirement in September 1984, Andy Stanners was the Superintendent of the Conestogo Lake Conservation Area.

"He saw the Conestogo Lake site through from the initial clearing of land for the reservoir, to the construction of the dam, to the development of over 400 cottage lots, to the creation of camping facilities and to the planting of hundreds of trees," said Norm Oldfield, Director of Land Management.



Robert Haworth Scholarship

In September, Reanne Bradley, an Honours Recreation student at the University of Waterloo, was the first recipient of the Robert Haworth scholarship. Grand Valley Conservation Foundation President John Harris presents Ms. Bradley with a copy of the Foundations publication "Grand River Reflections" along with a cheque for $1,500.
The Scholarship will be presented annually to a student enrolled in a watershed university or college Resource Management program related to Park Planning and Management, Recreation, Natural Heritage and Planning, Outdoor Education or similar fields of study.

In November, Lyle Walker, also of the University of Waterloo, received the fifth annual Marcel Pequegnat Scholarship from the Foundation.

Wetlands Management

Wetlands are of great concern and it is for this reason that over 400 Wetlands Discussion Papers were prepared and distributed this past summer to watershed municipalities, other conservation authorities and consultants. The Paper generated debate regarding the level of protection which should be applied to wetlands of all classes and the role of the GRCA in wetland management. For the most part, there is wide support for the efforts of the GRCA in dealing with the wetland issue at the local level.

The GRCA will be promoting further discussions over the next several months, among respondents and municipalities in order to foster an approach which will gain broader support for GRCA management throughout the watershed.

Wylde Lake, Luther Marsh Conservation Area.

Anyone interested in receiving or commenting on the Wetlands Discussion Paper, please contact the Policy and Planning Division.

Building the Team

The Association of Conservation Authorities of Ontario (ACAO) organized a three day conference during Conservation Week in November entitled "Building a Team."

"What an opportunity for Conservation Authority staff to unite for a few days; addressing their training and development needs; drawing support from one another and building and strengthening our team," said Jan Street of the ACAO in her speech at the close of the conference.

The conference offered a variety of workshops dealing with the many different areas of concern which conservation authorities must act upon. These workshops presented information ranging from floodproofing to computer software to environmental education and wetlands assessment.

"The Conservation Authorities of Ontario have as their vision, watersheds of ecological integrity where human needs are met in balance with the needs of the natural environment."

Building the Team

Conservation Week 1991

Grand Heritage

The Management Plan for the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River is scheduled for completion in January 1993 and is the final step in the Designation process. The Plan will be formulated in consultation with government agencies, municipalities, local groups and residents.

The GRCA distributed a questionnaire to municipalities, agencies and special interest groups in order to identify current issues which relate to the management of human heritage and recreational resources within the watershed. Close to 400 surveys were distributed and about 25% of those canvassed have returned comments.

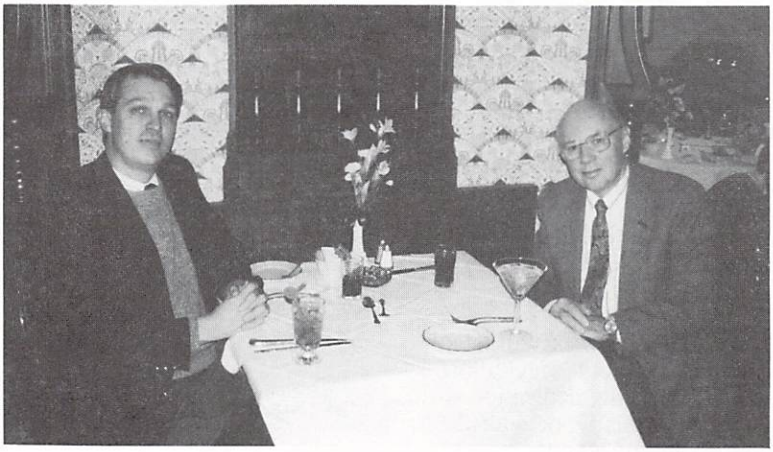
Staff have also completed a background report summarizing the human heritage, recreational and tourism values within the watershed, identifying current institutional arrangements which exist to manage these resources.

When the management plan is completed and accepted by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, the Grand River and its major tributaries will be designated as a Canadian Heritage River. For further information contact the GRCA Policy and Planning Division.

United Way and the GRCA

Conservation Authority employees were generous with their contributions to the United Way this year, so much so that United Way of Cambridge has presented the GRCA with the "Gold Award" for outstanding employee participation. A donation of $3,745 was made by 200 GRCA employees, surpassing the United Way goal by $70.

Carolann Machado, United Way Employee Campaign Coordinator and GRCA Payroll/Benefits Assistant, said employees participated in many fund-raising activities such as a LOEB IGA Barbecue, a Halloween breakfast and costume contest, and payroll deductions.



As part of the GRCA United Way fund-raising campaign, Manager of Finance Larry Reinhardt was the lucky winner of lunch with former Chief Administrative Officer Mac Coutts.

Gordon Glaves

The GRCA and the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Mr. Gordon Glaves, 51, of Brantford.

Mr. Glaves, owner of the Beckett-Glaves Funeral Home, approached the Foundation in 1983 with his hope to start a memorial tree grove. His idea had a number of benefits: it would plant trees, it would be a living memorial and it would offer some comfort to surviving family and friends. After two years of discussion, the first trees were planted in the Memorial Forest to commemorate the lives of Richard B. Beckett and G. Fred Glaves, two funeral directors who died only five weeks apart in 1983.

Gordon Glaves was presented with a GRCA Certificate of Appreciation by former Member Mary Welsh in 1986.

Located originally at the Brant Conservation Area, the Beckett-Glaves Memorial Forest has been extremely popular since 1985. So many trees have been planted that the Forest had to expand to two other locations - one near Birketts Lane and the other near the Cockshutt Bridge. The success of Gordon Glaves idea is also evident in the number of people who attend the annual memorial service held at Brant the Sunday before the Thanksgiving weekend. In 1991 approximately 2,500 people attended this service.

"The Memorial Forest will stand in living memory of Gordon, exemplifying his dedication to an idea and his work with the Conservation Authority and the Foundation," said John Harris, President of the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation.

Ken Kienapple, Bruce Stephenson and Wayne Reilly were awarded gold watches for their 25 years of service to the GRCA. Pictured are Archie MacRobbie, Chairman; Allan Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer; Ken Kienapple, Superintendent Laurel Creek Conservation Area; Wayne Reilly, Central Services Superintendent; Bruce Stephenson, Forestry & Wildlife Manager; Mac Coutts, former Chief Administrative Officer.